

STAFFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

1. Commitment - Having been called and empowered by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and supreme Treasure of our lives, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ (1 Cor. 12:4-20).
2. Church - We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and peace; to promote its maturity and fruitfulness; to sustain its corporate worship, ordinances, and discipline; to welcome, and test, instruction from the Scriptures by the elders of the church which accords with the Confession of Faith, seeking to grow toward unity in the truth of the Gospel; to maintain our commitment to the Stafford Baptist Church Confession of Faith; to faithfully attend the Members' Meetings; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations (Acts 4:32-37; Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 4:11-32; Tit. 2:1-15).
3. Family and Testimony - We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to disciple our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our relatives, acquaintances, and enemies; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all gossiping, slandering, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from all practices that bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith (Deut. 6:1-9; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:22-6:9; 1 Cor. 10:23-33; 1 Pet. 2:9-12).
4. Discipleship - We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to speak the truth in love to one another; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always willing to forgive, ready for reconciliation, and to be mindful of the words of our Savior to secure it without delay (Matt. 18:1-35; Gal. 5:1-6:10; Eph. 4:11-5:21; Col. 3:16; Heb. 3:12-13; 10:19-25).
5. Perseverance - We engage that when we remove from this body of Christ, we will unite with a likeminded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant (Heb. 10:24-25). Moreover, as a result of this covenant relationship, to these and all other scriptural duties we do humbly, voluntarily, and joyfully submit ourselves, promising and purposing to perform them, not in our own strength, but by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.